25X1A6a Communist Press Activities

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* Except as noted THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

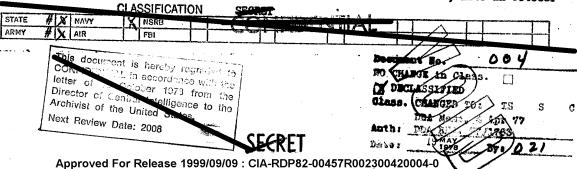
Globus Verlag

27 November 1948

The Globus Verlag, Fleischmarkt 1-5, Vienna I, under instructions from the Austrian Communist Party Central Committee, has recently undertaken to sell large quantities of books imported from Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Zone of Germany. With Soviet help, 30 carloads of books have reached Vienna for storage in a warehouse at Vienna IV, Lamprechtgasse 16. The warehouse, a two-story building, requisitioned by the Soviets, was rented to Globus for 1000 schillings per month, plus quarterly tax payment of 500 schillings. Book sales are to be under the direction of one Barta. Sales stores have been set up at various points in Vienna. One has been established at Fleischmarkt 1; another, called Wiener Bücherschwemme, is located at Strobelgasse 2 at the corner of Schulerstrasse; a third one has been installed at Wollzeile 20. The latter, called Die Büchergemeinde, is operated by a Communist named Dichter.

1 November 19/8

Globus Verlag receives its papers from the Haimburger paper company, Vienna I, Börsegasse 11. Since March 1948, Globus Verlag has incurred a growing debt for its consignment of paper. Three written requests from the paper factory for the settlement of outstanding bills have remained unanswered by Director Gruenberg of Globus. The factory has threatened to stop further deliveries, if payment fails to be made. Source believes that this non-payment of its debt is a result of Globus' insolvency and states further that, late in October



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1948, twenty-three typesetters were dismissed, as well as the entire sales section distributing to news stands and consisting of 14 workers; four other workers were dismissed because of the dissolution of a type depot which had been maintained by Globus.

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There is a rumor circulating at Globus Verlag that the former stockholders of the publishing firm of the former <u>Neues Wiener Taghlatt</u> will soon take legal action against Globus for the recovery of their property which was taken over by Globus. Source considers it not impossible that the financial losses of Globus may lead the management to return the firm to its former owners.

Comment: A report from another source states that an accounting

carried out at Globus on 28 October 1948, revealed a deficit of 93,000 schillings.) (Field Comment: While it is not unlikely that Globus Verlag is financially unsound, it is scarcely to be expected that the Communist Party would benefit by abandoning so useful an enterprise. The extensive program for selling books, mentioned in paragraph 1 above, is possibly intended to procure needed funds. By the dismissals of excess personnel, Globus can also economize. In this connection, source has also reported the virtual cessation of publishing operations at the subsidiary Globus plant, formerly known as Steyermühl A.G., Vienna VI, Gumpendorferstrasse 42-44. The return of this plant to its former owners might also represent a cutting of expenses on the part of Globus Verlag.)

29 November 1948

4. According to Fritz Macher, RAVAG employe, all Soviet propaganda directives to the CP are transmitted and explained by a Soviet major named Przebilski (also received Pshebilski) who maintains an office in the building of the Globus Verlag.

Activities of Communist Journalists

20 November 1948

5. Richard Schueller, formerly one of the editors of the <u>Volksstimme</u>, has been named editor-in-chief of a publicity firm in Linz-Urfahr, which publishes the <u>Linzer Tageszeitung</u>. He has already assumed his new post.

16 November 1948

6. Dr. Fritz Glaubauf, a political editor of the <u>Volksstimme</u> and head of the Communist press office, was expected to leave in a few days for Budapest to attend the executive committee meeting of an international journalistic organization. However, Glaubauf was not the official representative of Austria at this convention; Kurfürst, editor of the Socialist <u>Arbeiter Zeitung</u>, was the official delegate. Source of paragraph 7 below said that at a conference, scheduled to take place in Budapest in late November 1948, representatives of eastern and western European Communist Parties would be issued special instructions from the propaganda section of the Cominform.)

14 November 1948

7. Otto Wolf, cultural editor for <u>Der Abend</u>, was a free lance Communist journalist in Austria before the Anschluss. After 1938, he emigrated to France where he was at first active in refugee Communist circles. Then France was occupied by the Germans, he is said to have collaborated with the Germans by selling them paintings and other works of art. At the end of the war, he resumed his activities in refugee Communist groups and returned to Austria in 1945. He was accepted

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by the Austrian CP and received an appointment as a minor Party official.

Some time after his return to Austria, Wolf was taken into custody by the French and extradited to Paris. When the French released him and he returned to Austria, he found that he had been dropped from the Austrian CP.

Nowever, he was subsequently successful in having himself reinstated because of his journalistic qualifications and the confidence placed in him by the Soviets.

Comment: Essentially the same report was received from another source on 12 November 1948.)

30 December 1948

Rosner, a staff member of the Volksstimme, is scheduled to visit Bulgaria

for three weeks. He will leave Vienna during the week of 12 December 1948.

The reason for this journey is not known. Comment: This is probably

Jakob Posner, alias Fritz or Karl Lang, Moscow-trained Communist living at

Cottagegasse 63, Vienna XVIII. An informant, whose reliability cannot be

judged, has alleged that Rosner, an employe of Volksstimme, is well acquainted

with Boris Dmitrov (sig/.)

